



Washington, D.C. 20505

5 September 2019

Ms. Emma Best  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 63904  
411A Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02144

Reference: F-2019-00494

Dear Ms. Best:

This is further to our letter dated 14 December 2018 and is also a final response to your 20 November 2018 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for the following records: **files including cables, memos, emails and damage assessments, mentioning the Syrian Electronic Army, group of computer hackers which first surfaced online in 2011 to support the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.**

We have completed a thorough review of your request and have determined in accordance with Section 3.6(a) of Executive Order 13526, the CIA can neither confirm nor deny the existence or nonexistence of records responsive to your request. The fact of the existence or nonexistence of such records is itself currently and properly classified and is intelligence sources and methods information protected from disclosure by Section 6 of the CIA Act of 1949, as amended, and Section 102A(i)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended. Therefore, your request is denied pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3). As the CIA Information and Privacy Coordinator, I am the CIA official responsible for this determination. You have the right to appeal this response to the Agency Release Panel, in my care, within 90 days from the date of this letter. Please include the basis of your appeal.

If you have any questions regarding our response, you may contact us at:

Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, DC 20505  
Information and Privacy Coordinator  
703-613-3007 (Fax)

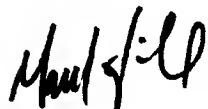
Please be advised that you may seek dispute resolution services from the CIA's FOIA Public Liaison or from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) of the National Archives and Records Administration. OGIS offers mediation services to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. You may reach CIA's FOIA Public Liaison at: 703-613-1287 (FOIA Hotline).

The contact information for OGIS is:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS  
College Park, MD 20740-6001  
202-741-5770  
877-864-6448  
202-741-5769 (fax)  
[ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)

Contacting the CIA's FOIA Public Liaison or OGIS does not affect your right to pursue an administrative appeal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Lilly', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Lilly  
Information and Privacy Coordinator